PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/870,581

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Original) A method of retrieving information from one or more information sources in a search space, said method comprising:

providing central program code at a central computer; said central program code being adapted for maintaining a central database of data records, for accessing information from said information sources, and for comparing said data records with said information from said information sources;

recognizing communication between said central program code and remote program code at each of a plurality of remote terminals; said remote program code being adapted for monitoring network activity at each of said plurality of remote terminals, for collecting monitored data related to said network activity and to each of said information sources accessed by any of said plurality of remote terminals, and for transmitting said monitored data to said central program code;

aggregating, at said central computer, said monitored data transmitted from said remote program code at all of said plurality of remote terminals and supplementing said data records in accordance with said monitored data;

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responsive to a request for information from one of said plurality of remote terminals,

identifying candidate response information from said information sources by employing

said central program code at said central computer;

comparing said data records with said request and with said candidate response

information by employing said central program code at said central computer; and

as a result of said identifying and said comparing, transmitting, to said remote program

code at said one of said plurality of remote terminals, data concerning one or more of said

information sources which contain information relevant to said request.

2.   (Original)   A central data aggregation system for accumulation of data related to

one or more information sources in a search space, said system comprising:

remote program code at a plurality of remote terminals; said remote program code being

adapted for monitoring network activity at each of said plurality of remote terminals, for

collecting monitored data related to said network activity and to each of said information

sources accessed by any of said plurality of remote terminals, and for transmitting said

monitored data; and

a central computer having central program code capable of communicating with said

remote program code and receiving said monitored data transmitted from said remote

program code at all of said plurality of remote terminals; said central program code being

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adapted for maintaining a central database of data records and for accessing information

from said information sources;

wherein said central database comprises at least one data record relating to each of said

information sources accessed by at least one of said plurality of remote terminals, and

wherein said central computer has additional program code adapted for aggregating said

monitored data transmitted from said program code at all of said plurality of remote

terminals and for supplementing said data records in accordance with said monitored

data.

3.   (Original) A distributed monitoring system for collection and accumulation of

data related to one or more information sources in a search space, said system comprising:

a central computer having central program code adapted for maintaining a central

database of data records related to said information sources; and

remote program code capable of communicating with said central program code and

adapted for monitoring network activity at each of a plurality of remote terminals, for

collecting monitored data related to said network activity and to each of said information

sources accessed by any of said plurality of remote terminals, and for transmitting said

monitored data to said central program code;

wherein said central computer has additional program code adapted for supplementing

said data records in accordance with said monitored data.

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4.   (Original) A method of retrieving information from one or more information

sources in a search space, said method comprising:

accumulating monitored data related to each of said information sources accessed by any

of a plurality of remote terminals;

transmitting said monitored data from each of said plurality of remote terminals to a

central computer;

aggregating, at said central computer, said monitored data transmitted by all of said

plurality of remote terminals;

responsive to a request for information, accessing information from said information

sources and comparing said monitored data with said request and with said information

from said information sources; and

as a result of said accessing and said comparing, identifying one or more of said

information sources which contain information relevant to the request.

5.   (Original) A method of retrieving information from one or more information

sources in a search space, said method comprising:

accumulating monitored data related to each of said information sources accessed by any

of a plurality of remote terminals;

aggregating said monitored data at a central computer;

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responsive to a request for information, comparing said monitored data with said request

and with information from said information sources; and

identifying one or more of said information sources in accordance with said comparing.

6.   (Currently Amended) An open recommendation system for retrieval of

information from one or more information sources in a search space, said system comprising:

a distributed monitoring system adapted to collect monitored data related to said

information sources <u>accessed by any of a plurality of remote terminals</u>; and

a central data aggregation system adapted to receive said monitored data from said

distributed monitoring system and to store said monitored data at a central computer;

wherein said open recommendation, in response to a request for information, compares

said monitored data related to said information sources with said request and then

recommends information sources for which said monitored data is similar to said request.

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